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General Assembly

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Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world"
Second session
3-14 April 2000
Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world": consideration of the draft provisional agenda of the special session of the General Assembly

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Koos Richelle (Netherlands), on the basis of informal consultations

Draft provisional agenda and organizational matters for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The Preparatory Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Organizational arrangements for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly adopts the following organizational arrangements for its twenty-fourth special session:

A. Date and duration

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/28 of 19 November 1998, the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, from 26 to 30 June 2000.

* A/AC.253/12.

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B. President

2. The special session should take place under the presidency of the President of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

C. Vice-Presidents

3. The Vice-Presidents of the special session should be the same as those of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

D. Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

4. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/404 of 8 October 1999, the General Assembly shall establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Twenty-Fourth Special Session.

5. The Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole should consist of one Chairman and four Vice-Chairmen, one of whom will serve as Rapporteur. The Bureau of the Preparatory Committee should serve as the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Twenty-Fourth Special Session.

E. Credentials Committee

6. The Credentials Committee of the special session should have the same membership as the Credentials Committee of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

F. General Committee

7. The General Committee of the special session should consist of the President and the 21 Vice-Presidents of the special session, the Chairpersons of the six Main Committees of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly and the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

G. Rules of procedure

8. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly should apply at the special session.

H. Level of representation

9. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/404, participation in the special session should be at the highest possible political level.

I. Debate in plenary

10. Statements in the debate in plenary should not exceed seven minutes.

11. The list of speakers for the debate in plenary should be established by a drawing of lots. Heads of State, Vice-Presidents, Crown Princes or Princesses and Heads of Government should be given precedence in the establishment of the list of speakers and in the speaking order and should have equal standing as regards the list of speakers. They should be followed by Ministers/Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers, Chairmen of Delegation/Vice-Ministers and Chairmen of Delegation.

J. Allocation of items

12. All items of the draft provisional agenda should be allocated to the plenary, and the substantive items should also be allocated to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

K. Participation of speakers other than Member States

13. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/404, observers may make statements in the debate in plenary.

14. A number of organizations and entities have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly.

15. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/404, States members of specialized agencies that are not Members of the United Nations may participate in the special session in the capacity of observers.

16. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/404, associate members of the regional commissions may participate in the special session, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in the same capacity of observer that applied to their participation in the World Summit for Social Development.

17. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/404, representatives of United Nations programmes and other entities in the United Nations system may make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

18. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/407 of 8 October 1999, representatives of non-governmental organizations may make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

19. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/407, given the availability of time, a limited number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may also make statements in the debate in the plenary of the special session.

L. Schedule of plenary meetings

20. Ten plenary meetings will be held over the five-day period, with two meetings per day as follows: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.